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SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1A2g

17 March 1953


COUNTRY: Argentina

SUBJECT: Lack of Experienced Supervision of Railways

25X1X6

SOURCE :

1. The Argentine railways are suffering from lack of experienced help. It was necessary that they learn that experience is a requisite when the lines were taken over from the British. During this period, equipment and service have deteriorated.
2. The chief authority is a native engineer, Berardino, who had to be recalled and placed in a consultant's position. His word is final. He is an able experienced man but seems to operate under a cloud of fear. In his office he was non-committal and furtive and expressed a desire to hold further meetings in our hotel room where he was at ease and talked freely.
3. The lack of experience is illustrated by the fact that 37 of 75 diesel locomotives purchased from General Electric were idle for lack of spare parts. These parts had not been ordered with the locomotives and when the need occurred, the railways were unable to get approval of the exchange commission for them.
4. There was no evidence of any planned expansion. The gauges of the roads must be standardized before a real program can be made.
5. They are buying 25 more diesel locomotives from General Electric and an unknown quantity from Baldwin Locomotive Works. Some new passenger cars are being purchased in the Netherlands.
6. Both passenger and freight cars looked old and poorly maintained. Train schedules were fairly well maintained.
7. Maintenance is poor due to lack of experienced supervision and craftsmen. I saw none of the British personnel that formerly was there. The men seemed intelligent and with experience will do a satisfactory job.

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